

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

ANNUAL MEETING

OF THE

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF DESIGN,

1847.

New-York:

ISRAEL SACKETT, PRINTER,
No. 1 NASSAU STREET, CORNER WALL.

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HELD ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 12, 1847.

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## ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ACADEMY.

MAY 12, 1847.

PRESENT, MESSRS. DURAND, PRESIDENT.

INGHAM, VICE-PRES'T.

AUDUBON,

CHAPMAN,

CUMMINGS,

EDMONDS,

ELLIOTT,

EVERS,

MARSIGLIA,

MORSE,

W. S. MOUNT,

S. A. MOUNT,

PAGE,

PRUD'HOMME,

SHEGOGUE,

SHUMWAY,

SPENCER,

WHITEHORNE.

A quorum being present, the President read the order required for the Annual Meeting of the Academy, and having declared it duly organized, proceeded, in accordance with the Constitution, to read the

### ANNUAL REPORT.

GENTLEMEN,

In submitting to you a summary of the transactions of the Academy for the past year, our attention is at once directed to the encouraging assurances of its continued prosperity.

The revenue accruing from our Annual Exhibition, by which we are sustained as a public body, presents in its gradual increase conclusive evidence of a corresponding growth among the people, of that susceptibility to the attractions of the Arts

we cherish, which cannot fail to ensure success and guarantee the permanency of the Academy.

The retrospect of the two and twenty years of our career exhibits ample grounds of encouragement and hope, that the continuance of diligent perseverance will at length be followed by results more in accordance with our wishes and intentions than with the evident inadequacy of our means.

The proceeds of the last Exhibition have exceeded that of the preceding year, by about Five Hundred Dollars; a detail of the disbursements of this income will be presented in the Report of the Treasurer. The appropriations to the Library and Reserved Funds, have been duly made, as directed by the Constitution, and there remains a balance of Seven Hundred and Nine Dollars and Five Cents to be applied to the Annuity Fund.

Nearly the entire appropriation to the Library Fund, including a balance from last year's account, has been expended accordingly, and, as shown by the Catalogue before you, several valuable works have been added to our collection.

A motion will be made at the present meeting, with the view to effect such arrangements in relation to the Library, as shall render its benefits more available to members, at all suitable times.

Of the number of Students entered during the past season, forty-two have been admitted to the Antique School, and fourteen to that of the Living Model.

We will here observe, that the efficiency of our Schools is liable to be much underrated by the superficial observer; inasmuch, as they are unaccompanied by external display and the conventionalities usually attendant on Academies of Art. It is true, that our present resources restrict their operations to a much more limited sphere than is contemplated in their organization, (the amount per annum required for their maintenance already embracing nearly one-half of the general expenses of the Institution) yet, we shall find little reason to regret the want of other facilities, when we reflect that the student's progress is liable to be impeded by a too rigid discipline, and that well directed industry, in the study of the Antique and of the Living Model, must

result in great benefit, with few other aids than the ambition which impels and the love that cheers the labor of the sincere student.

In the favorable effects of our Schools on the progress of Art, together with the influence of our Annual Exhibitions, one will not fail to trace the gradual developement, in the public mind, of a true love and just appreciation of Art. If they exercise a slow and unobtrusive influence, they are not, therefore, less efficient, and indeed, may be more powerful than more palpable and rapid causes. For this reason, also, we would not pass in silence the circumstance, too little regarded, of the free admission to our Exhibitions, of pupils attached to public and private seminaries in our City. Of these children, five thousand and upwards were admitted during the last season. The same course has been pursued for several preceeding years, without the occurrence of a single misdemeanor, or the slightest injury to any of the works displayed in our Saloons. This argues well for the safety of monumental or other works of Art, which may hereafter consecrate or adorn our public places; while it most certainly tends to the developement, among the rising generation, of the genius and the taste that should fill those public places with the "breathing marble and the glowing canvass."

The Council would earnestly recommend, that every member make exertion to produce annually, one work at least, with express reference to the interest of the Exhibition, subject to no contingency that may interfere with that end: not only will the attractiveness of the Exhibition be sustained thereby, but each member will have discharged his duty, in contributing to a just representation of the united strength of all.

The Standing Committee for procuring a suitable building on the expiration of our present lease, have not yet succeeded in finding an appropriate site, owing principally to the difficulty growing out of the necessity of locating our Exhibition Rooms at a slight elevation from the ground, and with an entrance on Broadway; reasonable hopes, however, are entertained that such location will be procured in due time.

The members elected in accordance with the Constitution, at our last Annual Meeting, have, with two exceptions, complied with the requirements thereof, and are entitled to their diplomas.

With this brief statement of the present condition of the Academy we would gladly close; but another and a painful duty remains. We have to lament the loss, within the past year, of three estimable members. One of them, WILLIAM SWAIN, Associate; an Artist of real merit, a man of unblemished character, and justly endeared to his circle of acquaintance by a sincere and unassuming deportment. Another, JOHN STEPHANO COGDELL, Honorary Member, an Amateur Artist and true lover of Art; who, although not intimately connected with us personally, was ever known to possess a deep interest in the success of our Institution, and the promotion of the high purposes of Art. The last, Capt. W. G. WILLIAMS, U. S. A., also Honorary Member, whose eulogy has been pronounced on the battle field of Monterey. Artist, Scholar and Soldier, his attachment to our cause was only equalled by his love of country, and the force of the latter is attested by the sacrifice of life. He has won a place in the regards of his country, and has left a vacancy in our ranks that few could fill so well.

Among the acceptances of membership received by the Council, we take occasion particularly to advert to that of HORACE VERNET, on account of the just appreciation, by that distinguished Artist, of our true position in relation to similar institutions abroad, for, to this effect, we construe his language. "He is the more gratified," he says, "by this," our recognition, "inasmuch as it comes from an Institution of the New World, which unites at once the energies of youth with the experience of age." This is indeed our position, and we are glad to be reminded of it by one so distinguished. It is not only our privilege, at once, to take possession of treasures that have accumulated for ages, but with their possession we retain, unimpaired, the full susceptibility to their enjoyment, together with the requisite energies for their extensive and greater perfectibility, or at least, we have before us the results of their experiments—their success and their failures. We may adopt the principles which have induced



the one, and reject the errors which have incurred the other. If the trammels of conventional rule have resulted in Academic Mannerism, we should be cautious in our restrictive enactments, and where unguarded license has entailed corruption, our course is plainly designated to be the just medium--a sufficiency of method to secure the induction of true principles, and this we conceive will be found to consist in few and simple directions, greatly at variance with the burthensome requirements that have but too generally shackled and worried the Student in Art.

In conclusion, let us ever bear in mind the high responsibilities of our position as an important public body; and above all, that in unity of purpose and cordial co-operation, consist the health, the strength and measure of its usefulness. As a public body, we feel entitled to, and have thus far, received our share of public support, and this we are willing to accept as it flows, through its natural channel, shaped and adapted by the genius of our people and our Government. As an Academy for the cultivation of the Arts of Design, it may be incomplete in its structure, and we know it to be deficient in means; but we have full confidence in the correctness of intention, and are certain of success, so long as we have the united action of the profession, and we are equally certain that there is necessarily, no obstacle, either in our organization or operations that should prevent that united action. We claim, indeed, exemption from most of the objectionable features which characterize the Academies of Europe. Here is set up, no arbitrary standard of conventional excellence to shackle the freedom of genius. No distinctions that can affix any permanent value to inferior productions, and no insignificance of position that can conceal intrinsic merit, or cheat it of its full reward.

The Report was accepted, and ordered to be placed on record.

MESSRS. GRAY and HUNTINGTON appeared and took their seats.

*The Treasurer* presented his Annual Report on the state of the Funds of the Academy, which was accepted and ordered on file.

## SYNOPSIS OF THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE

*Dr.*                      THOMAS S. CUMMINGS, *Treasurer, in account*

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|                                                                      |           |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Balance on hand from last year's Account, .                          | \$ 799.99 |
| Receipts of the Exhibition 1846, April 16th to 4th July inclusive, . | 5,665.18  |
| Interest receivable on the Annuity and Reserved Fund Accounts, .     | 89.00     |
| Sundry other sources as per accounts rendered, . . . . .             | 450.94    |

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Total Receipts,                      \$7,005 11

## YEAR ENDING APRIL THE FIRST, 1847.

*current with the NATIONAL ACADEMY OF DESIGN,* *Cr.*


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|                                                                                                                                                                                 |                  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Deposited in the New-York Life Insurance and Trust Company, to the credit of the Reserve Fund, per order 19th May, 1846, . . .                                                  | \$500.00         |
| Deposited in the New-York Life Insurance and Trust Company, to the credit of the Annuity Fund, a balance from last year's account as per order of the 19th May, 1846, . . . . . | 636.85           |
| Mrs. Henry Inman, one year's Annuity, Feb. 1, 1846, to Feb. 1, 1847, per order, . . . . .                                                                                       | 200.00           |
| Purchases made on the Library Fund Account for the year to date, including the balance from last year's account, . . . . .                                                      | 429.84           |
| Purchases made of Books, &c. and <i>not</i> made chargeable to the Library Fund Account, per separate resolution, . . . . .                                                     | 120.14           |
|                                                                                                                                                                                 | <hr/> \$1,886.83 |

## GENERAL EXPENSES.

|                                                                                                           |                |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Rent of the Rooms, Broadway, one year, to May 1, 1847, \$1,000.00                                         | \$1,000.00     |
| Attendance on Exhibitions, Schools, &c. &c., for the year, . . . . .                                      | 666.32         |
| Discount on Uncurrent and loss on Counterfeit Money received at door during Exhibition of 1846, . . . . . | 19.44          |
| Gas bills for the year, . . . . .                                                                         | 710.49         |
| Printing, . . . . .                                                                                       | 530.24         |
| Repairs, Alterations, &c. &c. . . . .                                                                     | 261.66         |
| Collecting and Returning Paintings Exhibition 1846, . . . . .                                             | 181.76         |
| Curator's Salary, . . . . .                                                                               | 250.00         |
| Sundries, . . . . .                                                                                       | 95.67          |
| Insurance, . . . . .                                                                                      | 49.00          |
| Postage and Stationery for the year, . . . . .                                                            | 12.20          |
| Counsel Fee, . . . . .                                                                                    | 10.00          |
| Expenses on Paintings to and from Philadelphia, . . . . .                                                 | 50.75          |
| Frames for Members' Portraits presented to the Academy, . . . . .                                         | 137.75         |
| Freight, Advertising, &c., . . . . .                                                                      | 298.31         |
| Coal, . . . . .                                                                                           | 79.01          |
| Life Model to School, . . . . .                                                                           | 33.33          |
|                                                                                                           | <hr/> 4,385.93 |

Total expenditure and payments for the year, \$6,272.76Balance in the Treasury carried to next year's account. 732.35

E. E.

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\$7,005.11

THOMAS S. CUMMINGS, TREASURER.

April 1, 1847.

*Resolved*, That the balance of seven hundred and thirty-two dollars and thirty-five cents, (\$732.35) less twenty-three dollars thirty cents, (\$23.30) due the Library Fund, be deposited with the New-York Life Insurance and Trust Company to the credit of the Annuity Fund of the Academy.

The Treasurer suggested certain changes in reference to the expenses of the Library and attendance, by which greater facilities would be afforded to members in that department.

*Resolved*, That it be, and is hereby recommended, to the Council to take into consideration the suggestions of the Treasurer in relation to the expenses of the Library, attendance, etc.

Mr. EDMONDS and Mr. GRAY were appointed Tellers, and the meeting then proceeded to the election of officers for the year, beginning on the first Monday in August, 1847.

The following gentlemen were duly elected :

A. B. DURAND, *President*.  
 C. C. INGHAM, *Vice-President*.  
 J. G. CHAPMAN, *Cor. Sec'y*.  
 F. W. EDMONDS, *Rec. Sec'y*.  
 THOS. S. CUMMINGS, *Treasurer*.

C. C. ELLIOTT, }  
 D. HUNTINGTON, } *Council*.

Committee of Arrangements for the XXIII. Annual Exhibition, in connection with the Council :

W. PAGE, }  
 V. G. AUDUBON, } *Of the Academicians*.  
 G. A. BAKER, Jr. }  
 CHRISTIAN MAYR, } *Of the Associates*.

During the election of officers Mr. LAUNITZ appeared and took his seat.

The meeting proceeded to the election of members, by ballot.

The following gentlemen were duly elected :

ASSOCIATES.

H. K. BROWN, Sculptor.  
T. H. MATTESON, Painter.  
J. W. AUDUBON, do.  
SAMUEL L. WALDO, do.  
W. JEWETT, do.

HONORARY MEMBERS.

PROFESSIONAL.

SAMUEL B. WAUGH, Painter, Philadelphia.  
J. W. GLASS, do.  
PIETRO TENERANI, Sculptor, Rome.  
J. H. BEARD, Painter, Cincinnati.  
J. B. FLAGG, do. Hartford.  
M. LIVINGSTON, Painter, Tivoli, Dutchess Co. N. Y.  
P. F. ROTHERMEL, do. Philadelphia.

AMATEUR.

DANIEL SEYMOUR, New-York.  
J. T. FISHER, do.  
JAMES ROBB, New-Orleans.

*Resolved*, That the proceedings of this Annual Meeting of the Academy and the proceedings of all those that may be held hereafter, be published in pamphlet form, under the the direction of the Council, for distribution to the members of the Academy.

Adjourned to Monday next, at 7 o'clock, P. M

ADJOURNED MEETING, MONDAY 17th MAY.

PRESENT, MESSRS. DURAND, PRES'T.  
INGHAM, VICE-PRES'T.  
AUDUBON,  
CHAPMAN,  
COLE,  
CUMMINGS,  
EDMONDS,  
ELLIOTT,  
GRAY,  
HUNTINGTON,  
MORSE,  
S. A. MOUNT,  
PAGE,  
PRUD'HOMME,  
SHUMWAY,  
WHITEHORNE.

A quorum being present, the following preamble and resolution were adopted :

*Whereas*, It is important and expedient to preserve the novelty of each Annual Exhibition of the Academy, by a strict exclusion of all works of Art that have been previously exhibited, publicly, in the City of New-York. It is therefore,

*Resolved*, That in future, no work of Art that has been previously exhibited publicly in the City of New-York, be admitted in the Annual Exhibitions of the Academy, and that due notice be given to Exhibitors to that effect.

A call for the ayes and noes on the passage of this resolution was made and seconded.

*Affirmative*—Messrs. Durand, Ingham, Audubon, Chapman, Cole, Edmonds, Elliott, Gray, Morse, Mount, Page, Prud'homme.—(12.)

*Negative*—Messrs. Cummings, Huntington, Shumway, Whitehorne.—(4.)

The Treasurer reported having deposited in the New-York Life Insurance and Trust Company, as directed, seven hundred and nine dollars, five cents, (\$709.05) to the credit of the Annuity Fund, and five hundred dollars (\$500) to the credit of the Reserved Fund. And further, that three hundred dollars had been placed to the credit of the Library Fund.

Adjourned.

A true copy from the Minutes.

JNO. G. CHAPMAN, *Sec'y.*

REGULATIONS OF THE LIBRARY  
OF THE  
NATIONAL ACADEMY OF DESIGN,  
OPEN DAILY FOR THE USE OF MEMBERS. (SUNDAYS EXCEPTED.)

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The Library of the Academy shall be open to the Members and visitors personally introduced by them.

Members of the Academy, resident in the City, have the privilege of taking out of the Library, for their own use, Books and bound Volumes; but no Prints Drawings, Medals, or Works in loose sheets, shall be permitted to be taken from the Library without an order of the Council.

All Works to be returned within two weeks, and if detained more than that period, a fine of 6½ cents shall be exacted for every day they are so detained.

All Periodicals, Newspapers, etc. shall be regularly filed, nor shall they be permitted to be taken from the Library.

It shall be the duty of the Librarian to examine every book or other work on its return, and report to the Council any injury it may have sustained, which damage or injury shall be repaired at the cost of the member by whom it may have been taken out, who shall also be liable in the amount of its full value if lost or materially injured.

The Librarian shall require a receipt for every work borrowed, to be made in a book kept for that purpose, in which shall also be entered the date of its return, etc.

In all cases of penalties incurred by losses or injuries to works, or fines for not returning them within the time specified, the member to whom they may be chargeable, shall forfeit the privileges of the Library until the same be paid.

No works deposited for safe keeping in the Library, shall be taken out unless by permission in writing, from their owners, which prohibition the Council may at their discretion, extend to any other works, to be so designated in the Catalogue.

## THE LIFE AND ANTIQUE SCHOOLS

OF THE

### NATIONAL ACADEMY OF DESIGN,

Are opened annually, at the close of the vacation, in October. No charge is made to students. The requisite for admission is an original drawing from the round, for the Antique, and a full length figure, for the Life School ; to be approved by the Council, as indicating sufficient advancement of the applicant, in drawing, to justify admission to the Schools.

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### THE GALLERY OF ANTIQUE STATUES, ETC.

Is exhibited, free to the public, some time previous to the commencement of the Schools in the autumn.



### NOTICE TO ARTISTS.

THE ANNUAL EXHIBITION of the Academy will be arranged, to open to the public, about the *first of April* of every year, and will continue open until the close of the first week in July, during which time, no work loaned for exhibition, can be taken from the Rooms.

THE Rooms of the Academy, corner Broadway and Leonard Street, will be prepared for the reception of Works intended for the Exhibitions, early *in March*, and the arranging will uniformly commence about the 20th.









